



# FUNDA Y TIMES



**May flowers in bloom**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara



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**From the Editor...**

Since we are all working and studying from home due to the prevailing situation, please send your articles, art and entries by email to: [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)

Take care and stay safe.

### Essay Competition

<b>Age Group :</b> 9 years and below	<b>Age Group:</b> 10 – 12 years	<b>Age Group:</b> 13 – 15 years
<b>Topic:</b> Fun with my mum	<b>Topic:</b> Why my mum is special	<b>Topic:</b> How I can help my mum
<b>Word Count:</b> 150	<b>Word Count:</b> 150 – 200	<b>Word Count:</b> 200 – 250

We regret we are unable to send prizes for the essays we give today. Please email your entries to us at [fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com).

The best essays will be published in Funday Times. We welcome your participation.

### School Jokes

**Q:** How is an English teacher like a judge?

**A:** They both give out sentences.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Why did the teacher go to the beach?

**A:** To test the water.

\*\*\*

**Q:** Teacher: If I had 6 oranges in one hand and 7 apples in the other, what would I have?

**A:** Student: Big hands!

[www.ducksters.com](http://www.ducksters.com)

It all happens here

### Love a tree

Saturday 16 May is Love a Tree Day. We all love trees. And we are sure there are many young artists out there who can draw or paint or create some very beautiful trees. Photograph your creations and email Mrinali, along with your name, age, and contact number (please don't write these on your drawing), to reach her by Wednesday 13 May 2020. Watch out for a collage of a selection of the artwork on our Social Media platforms on the 16 May in celebration of trees.

**Age:** 5 to 17 years  
**Email:** [Mrinali.Thalgodapitiya@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Mrinali.Thalgodapitiya@britishcouncil.org)  
**Closing date:** Wednesday 13 May 2020

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 [www.britishcouncil.lk](http://www.britishcouncil.lk)



**News in Pictures**

May 6, 2020



**Rotterdam, Netherlands**  
Three hundred luminous drones above the river Maas at Erasmus Bridge are displayed as a tribute to freedom and health.



**Mexico City, Mexico**  
Workers disinfect the Trajineras Xochimilco, a tourist attraction where visitors can ride a gondola through the canals.



**Agartala, India**  
Workers dry pipe papad made from seasoned, coloured dough.



**Nairobi, Kenya**  
A woman carries a can of water back home during a water shortage amid the ongoing coronavirus curfew.



**Mont-Saint-Martin, France**  
Steven Da Costa, a karate world champion and Olympic hopeful, trains on the terrace at his home in eastern France.



**Rome, Italy**  
Ancient imperial flooring is found during archaeological investigations near the Pantheon.



**Wuhan, China**  
High school students back in the classroom for the first time since their city, the ground zero of the coronavirus pandemic, shut down in January.



**Hunstanton, England**  
The wreck of the Sheraton appears at low tide. Between 1915 and 1918 the trawler was used during boom defence work and in the Second World War it served as a patrol vessel. In 1945, it became a target ship, before being wrecked in 1947. In 2004, the wreck was 38.5 m long by 5.35 m wide, with a substantial section of the metal hull surviving.



**Guatemala City, Guatemala**  
Migrants, part of a group of 76 deported from the United States, wave from a bus upon landing at the city's air force base.



**Kigali, Rwanda**  
Children stay in a white circle to adhere to physical distancing measures as they wait for a bus at Nyabugogo station.

# Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a holiday set aside to honour our mothers. Most of us owe our mothers so much for all the hard work, love and patience they showed while raising us. There is nothing quite like the love of a mother.

## Traditional Gifts

Although it's great to be original and get your mother something special and different, there are always the traditional gifts. Some of the most popular Mother's Day gifts include flowers, greeting cards, jewellery and, of course, cooking your mother a special meal. The most important thing is to remember your mother.

## When is it celebrated?

Mother's Day is usually celebrated on the second Sunday in May. However, different countries celebrate Mother's Day at different times. For example, the United Kingdom celebrates it on the fourth Sunday of Lent, Norway on the second Sunday of February, and Egypt the first day of Spring. The Philippines and Japan celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. In Sri Lanka too we celebrate on the second Sunday in May.



## History of Mother's Day

Various forms of Mother's Day have been celebrated by different societies throughout the history of the world. The official holiday in the United States, however, began with a lady named Ann Jarvis in 1868. Ann tried to establish a Mother's Friendship Day after the Civil War. She wasn't successful during her lifetime, however her daughter Anna Marie Jarvis began to work on a Mother's Day holiday after Ann died.

In 1910, Anna Marie got the state of West Virginia to declare Mother's Day an official holiday. The rest of the nation soon followed and in 1914 it was declared a national holiday by President Woodrow Wilson.

Since then Mother's Day has become one of the most popular holidays of the year.

## Fun Facts

- There was a stamp commemorating the holiday in 1934.
- It is the biggest day of the year for the restaurant industry.
- Carnations are the traditional flower for Mother's Day.
- There was a Russian mother who had 69 children over the course of 27 pregnancies. Wow!
- There were over 122 million phone calls on this day in 2011.
- There are an estimated 1.7 billion mothers worldwide.
- Each year around \$2 billion is spent in the United States on flowers.

Source: Ducksters

## I said a Mother's Day prayer for you

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you to thank the Lord above for blessing me with a lifetime of your tenderhearted love. I thanked God for the caring you've shown me through the years, for the closeness we've enjoyed in time of laughter and of tears. And so, I thank you from the heart for all you've done for me and I bless the Lord for giving me the best mother there could be!

Author Unknown

## I wish I could tell you, Mom

I wish I could tell you, Mom how much you mean to me... But there are no words to say how much I admire you... how much I appreciate you... how much I thank you for everything you've done.

Author Unknown



## Mommy, I love you

Mommy, I know you love me,  
By the way you show you care,  
You hug me and talk to me softly;  
When I need you, you're always there.

Mommy, I'll love you always,  
From my heart, I want to say,  
I'm so glad you are my mommy,  
Happy Mother's Day!

Author Unknown

## Mother is just a simple word

Mother is just a simple word  
yet it's especially dear...

And it seems to mean much more  
with each passing year...  
Each word of Love and Affection  
describes you Mother...  
It's a word that's filled with love,  
a word that reflects everything that's  
wonderful -  
Wonderful just like you.

Author Unknown

# A wonderful gift for Mother

By Manoshi de Silva

**O**n a cold morning, a tiny kitten was born in an old garden shed. His mother licked him and kept him close, to keep him warm. His mother was not a lucky cat who had an owner. She was what they called a 'stray cat'. She ate whatever she could find from the garbage and she had no proper place to sleep. When she was ready to have the kitten, she slowly crept into this shed in the neighbourhood.

Later in the morning, the house owner opened the broken shed door to take out something. She noticed the cat and the kitten in an old wooden box. She was not a kind person. Seeing them made her very angry. She took a broken broom and chased off the cat. The cat didn't want to leave behind her tiny baby. But she got so scared that she ran out. She hid behind the shed, feeling very scared and sad.

The lady had no sympathy for the newborn kitten. She saw it as a nuisance and wanted to get rid of it. She took an old fertilizer bag and put the tiny kitten inside. Then she handed the bag to her servant and asked her to get rid of the kitten. The servant took the bag and went to the junction, a little away from the house. She dumped the bag by the side of the road and left.

When it was quiet, the mother cat went back into the shed. She went straight to the box, but her baby was not there. She sniffed around and searched all over the shed, crying slowly. Her heart was broken. Her beloved baby was nowhere to be found. She wished she could talk, so that she could ask the lady where her baby was. But there was nothing she could do. She was only a helpless animal.

Meanwhile, in a house on the road on the opposite side of the junction, a little girl named Sinara sat by the window. She was sad for a lot of reasons. It was 'Mother's Day', but she couldn't do anything special to make her mother happy, as she couldn't go out to buy anything.

Sinara's mother was also very sad. Her beloved pet, a fourteen year old cat named 'Sudu', passed away a few days

previously, due to old age. Sinara's mother had adopted *Sudu* four years before Sinara was born. *Sudu* had been a part of her mother's life for a very long time. "I wish there was something I could do to make Mother's Day special for *Amma!*" thought Sinara. "She is so sad because *Sudu* is no more. If only I could do something to cheer her up!"

In the meantime, the little kitten who was dumped by the roadside, felt very cold and scared. He couldn't feel his mother's soft fur or her warmth. He was very new to this world and he couldn't even understand what was going on. He shouted as loud as he could, feeling very tired and hungry.

The mother cat went all over the neighbourhood looking for her baby. She could faintly catch his scent, but it was very difficult to track him. She walked towards the junction meowing loudly, asking where her baby was and if anyone had seen him. Finally as she got closer to the junction, she could hear faint cries. Although she was an animal, she was still a mother. She knew it was her baby and she ran towards where the sound came from.

The mother cat saw the bag lying by the side of the road and she quickly ran near. When she heard the cries, she crept inside the bag and there she saw her precious baby. She sniffed him and gently lifted him by the back of his neck. She didn't know where to go, so she ran off to the opposite side of the junction as quickly as she could.

Mother cat crept through the fence, into Sinara's garden, carrying the kitten in her mouth. For some reason she felt safe there. She saw someone in the garden and quickly hid behind some plants. She was scared of humans. They did wicked things to animals for no reason. She didn't trust them at all.

There was a broken wheelbarrow in a corner, turned upside down. She crept under it through a small gap. It was not the ideal place for a newborn baby, but she had no choice. It felt safe under there, so she decided to settle down.



She gently licked and cleaned her baby and fed him, purring in relief. They were together again. She knew that life would be hard for them. Living without a house or owner was the worst nightmare, to any stray animal.

Sinara was walking in the garden, still trying to think of a way to cheer her mother up. Then she noticed the stripped cat tail, from under the old wheelbarrow. She slowly went near and carefully lifted the wheelbarrow. What a surprise! There was a cat nursing a tiny kitten, that looked very much like their late pet, *Sudu*.

The cat got scared but this time she was not going to run away, leaving her baby behind. Sinara kept the wheelbarrow down because the cat looked frightened. She ran in straight to her mother. "*Amma*, I was thinking of a gift for you for Mother's Day and the perfect gift has come to our house, looking for you! Come with me," she said pulling her mother's hand.

When Sinara's mother saw the cat and kitten, she smiled brightly. "Let's put some old cloth to keep them warm and leave some food for the mother cat," she said. "Once we win her trust and she is tame, we can adopt them both!" Sinara felt so happy to see her mother's happy smile. "What a wonderful Mother's Day this turned out to be," she thought happily.

## Tomahawk Quiz No. 172

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 172 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of March 1, 8 and 15, 2020. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 172' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard.

Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

**Two lucky winners** will receive brand new

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All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: May 31, 2020



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### Questions - Quiz No. 172

1. Name the country and city where Duomo Cathedral is situated.
2. During which war did Florence Nightingale first look after wounded British soldiers?
3. How many terms did Sirimavo Bandaranaike serve as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka?
4. The Raj Ghat in India is a memorial to which famous Indian Leader?
5. Name three steps to take to avoid contracting the novel coronavirus disease.

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4 - 6 AGE GROUP

Colour the picture.

